

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01
MCT-01 EB-08 COM-02 TRSY-02 OMB-01 ACDA-07 OC-06
CCO-00 /115 W

-----011421Z 008544 /43

P R 011217Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3668

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1040

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CD

SUBJ: NDJAMENA CALM AFTER EVENTFUL NIGHT

REF: NDJAMENA 1031

1. NDJAMENA IS CALM, PATROLLED BY GOC MILITARY FORCES,
AIRPORT AND FERRY ARE CLOSED, AND EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT
WITH ALMOST ALL AMCITS IN CITY, ALL OF WHOM WELL.

2. AS STORY EMERGES, FROM SEVERAL SOURCES INCLUDING FRENCH
EMBASSY, YOUNG ARMY LIEUTENANT RHODAN HAD RETURNED FROM PILOT
TRAINING IN FRANCE ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO MOUNTED OPERATION TO
FREE GROUP PRISONERS BEING HELD IN MILITARY ENCAMPMENT IN CENTER
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OF CITY. THESE PRISONERS REPORTED TO BE THOSE DELIVERED TO
CHADIAN ARMY CHIEF GEN. ODINGAR BY EMPEROR BOKASSA DURING
FORMER'S VISIT CAE SOME WEEKS AGO. (REPORT REFTEL THAT
PRISONERS CONCERNED WERE THOSE RECENTLY CONVICTED FOR APRIL 13,
1976 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT NOW APPEARS MISTAKEN.)
ATTACKERS, ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND GRENADES, ARE SAID
TO HAVE KILLED CAMP GUARDS WITH GRENADE AND TO HAVE SEIZED

TEMPORARY CONTROL AREA OF CAMP HOUSING PRISONERS. GUNFIRE WITHIN CAMP THOUGHT TO HAVE STIMULATED FIRE BY GUARD OF HRESIDENTIAL PALACE LOCATED ACROSS MAIN PUBLIC SQUARE FROM CAMP. MUTINEERS APPARENTLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN GAINING ADHERENCE OTHER MILITARY, BUT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY LIBERATED PRISONERS AND TO HAVE MADE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE. DURING MELEE, ONE CHADIAN ARMY COLONEL WHO ENTERED CAMP UPON HEARING FIRING WHILE RETURNING HOME FROM DINNER SHOT AND KILLED AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERSON, CHADIAMHIMMIGRATION OFFICER WHO HAPPENED TO BE PASSING, ALSO KILLED BY CROSSFIRE.

3. AS OF NOON LOCAL TIME, CITY REMAINED QUIET, WITH GOVERNMENT IMTGBLS BEGINNING TO CONTROL MAIN STREETS AND ENFORCE CURFEW. NATIONAL RADIO WHICH HAS RETURNED TO AIR HAS MADE NO EXPLANATION OF NIGHT'S EVENTS, CONFINING ITSELF TO WARNING CITIZENS TO STAY AT HOME. PRESIDENT MALLOUM, WHO HAD BEEN SCHEDULED DEPART NDJAMENA EARLY MORNING FOR FUNERAL SLAIN PRESIDENT OF CONGO, BELIEVED TO BE MEETING AS OF NOON WITH SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL.

4. COMMENT: INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT NIGHT'S INCIDENT WAS ISOLATED, WITH LIMITED OBJECTIVE, NOT DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST PRESIDENT, NOR MEANT TO ATTEMPT OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT. BRADFORD

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Message Attributes

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